

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FLASH  
INCIDENT REPORT

EVENT NAME: Erskine Vegetation Fire, Lake Isabella, Kern County (This report may contain unconfirmed information)

DATE/TIME OF REPORT: 06/25/16 at 2030 hours

DATE/TIME OF EVENT: 06/23/16 at 1557 hours

LOCATION: Erskine Creek Rd & Apollo Way, Lake Isabella

IMPACT OF EVENT: Moderate

**SITUATION OVERVIEW:**

Per ICS-209 and Inciweb:

Acres Burned to Date: 36,810 acres

Contained: 10%

Start Date and Time: 06/23/16 1557 hours

Fire Cause: Unknown

Structures Threatened: 2,500

Total Structures Destroyed: 200

    Single Residences: 200

    Non-residential: 0

    Other minor structures: 0

Structures Damaged: 75

Estimated Contained (date): 06/30/16

Fuel Types: Brush, small and large trees

Event Summary- The Erskine Fire is burning in the Lake Isabella area of Kern County. Life, property, local communities, residences, and infrastructure are all threatened at this time. As of 1300 hours on 6/25/16, per InciWeb, there are 1,139 fire fighters on scene. Because of successful fire suppression efforts, the north and west portions of the fire are expected to exhibit minimal growth. There is significant potential for fire spread on the eastern flank when wind and slope are in alignment. Heat, steep and rugged terrain, wind and a fast moving fire are all challenges facing firefighters. The fire started on Bureau Land Management (BLM) managed public lands at the junction of Erskine Creek Rd and Apollo. The cause of the fire is under investigation

## **Fire Information**

The incident Command Post has been established at the Park & Ride at Highway 178 and Highway 155. As of 1530 hours on 06/24/16:

- 2 confirmed fatalities
- Several missing
- 35 OES Engines
- 21 Local Government Engines
- 1 Support Unit
- 2 Public Safety Technicians
- Community Meeting: Wallace Elementary School, 3240 Erskine Creek Rd, Lake Isabella was held on 6/25/16 at 1800 hours.

## **Activations**

- Cal OES State Emergency Operations Center activated at Level 3 with an Operational Period of 0700-1900 hours.
- Kern County EOC activated at Level 2 with an Operational Period of 0700 – 2000 hours.
- A JIC has been established
- Cal OES Law Emergency Operations Center (LEOC) has been activated
- Cal OES Fire and Rescue Emergency Operations Center (Fire EOC) will be activated 0600-1800 hours until further notice.
- ESF 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 13 activated and have presences in the SOC.
- Agency Representatives in SOC from FEMA and CUEA.

## **Proclamations**

- Kern County proclaimed a local emergency on 6/23/16
- A State of Emergency was proclaimed on 6/24/16
- An Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) 5131 approved on 6/23/16

## **State Assistance Requests**

- None at this time.

## **Deployments**

- 5 ESCs have been deployed to Kern County
- 2 Fire Branch AC
- 2 Law Branch AC
- 1 Cal OES PIO

## **Critical Concerns**

### **Access and Functional Needs (AFN)**

- One Functional Assessment Support Team (FAST) member [has been demobilized from the shelter. Mission has been closed.](#)
- Kern Regional Transit is at the shelters to transport AFN community members
- Red Cross provided one AFN trailer and an AFN specialist to the shelter
- [American Sign Language \(ASL\) interpreter available at the EOC.](#)
- [Cal OES Representative is working with local AFN Representative from Kern County Public Guardian Jeremy Oliver to assess evacuation assistance, if needed.](#)

### **Critical Infrastructure (including Hospital and Medical Facilities)**

- [Kern Valley Hospital closed, no other structures threatened at this time.](#)

## **Emergency Management**

### **Evacuations (2,700 homes affected)**

- Kern Valley Hospital evacuated 66 patients in total. No requests or unmet needs at this time.

### **A recommended evacuation is in effect for the areas of:**

- Lake Isabella
- Yankee Canyon
- Lakeland Tract
- Squirrel Mt Valley
- Weldon through Onyx
- Mt Mesa
- South Lake
- Bella Vista
- Valley Estates
- Kelso Valley to Piute

## **Road Closures**

- Highway 178 at Auxiliary Dam
- Highway 178 at Sierra Hwy
- Highway 178 at Entrada
- Hwy 178 at Kelso Creek
- Hwy 178 at Kelso Valley
- Hwy 178 at Mobile.
- Hwy 178 Lake Isabella /Mount Mesa/Squirrel Valley Area: Lake Isabella Blvd to Sierra Way

- All County roads in the evacuation areas are closed to non-residents.

### **Health and Medical**

- As of 2311 hours on 06/24/16, Kern Valley Hospital has evacuated. Patient count: 66
- A boil water notice was issued. Update 06/25: Boil water notice may be lifted as early as 06/29 depending on conditions
- Per Kern County Public Health, California Water Service (Cal Water), an investor owned water utility company, is providing drinking water to its customers on boil water notices (1,473 people affected).
- Water donations have been received, many more pallets are on standby at ARC HQ and additional offers have been extended.
- Water systems under boil water notice include:
  - Cal Water Service - Southlake-Squirrel Valley System
  - Cal Water Service - Mountain Mesa Water Company
  - South Fork Elementary School Water System
  - South Fork Middle School
  - Tradewinds Water Association
  - Hillview Water Association
  - Lakeview Ranchos Mutual Water Company
  - Long Canyon Water Company Water System

Per Cal EPA, Precautionary Do Not Drink Notice issued for the following water systems:

- Sierra Vista Restaurant Water System
- Lake Isabella KOA Campground
- South Fork Women's Club Water System
- Rainbird Valley Mutual Water Company

### **Air Quality**

- Smoke in the Lake Isabella and Erskine Creek area is impacting communities in the Kern River Valley.
- The Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District is recommending that children, older individuals, and those with pre-existing heart and lung problems should avoid outdoor activity if smoke is in the immediate area.
- The County Public Health Dept. has identified a significant threat to public safety due to hazmat, asbestos and heavy metal contamination common to the ashes from burned structures. Residents will be urged to exercise caution and wear M-95 masks and gloves when sifting through the burned remains of their homes. Warning notices will be provided to shelter staff for distribution to displaced residents; the Kern EOC will initiate public information operations at the JIC to widely disseminate the warning.

- N-95 masks delivered to the shelters for fire victims and ICP for first responders.
- Cal OES coordinated with CDPH to translate notices from English to Spanish today
- Air Resources Board is mobilizing 6 portable air quality monitors to communities surrounding the Erskine Fire, ETA 6/26/16.

### **Schools**

- All are closed for summer. No summer school at this time.

### **Shelters**

Primary: Kernville Elementary School

- 13359 Sierra Way, Kernville, CA
- Capacity: 150
- Overnight populations: 65
- According to the National Shelter System, as of 6/25/16 0847 hours,
- Overnight populations: 65

Secondary: St. Jude Catholic Church

- 86 Nellie Dent Drive, Wofford Heights, CA
- Capacity: 150
- Overnight populations: 0

Staff Shelter: Kern River Valley Senior Center

- 6404 Lake Isabella Boulevard, Lake Isabella, CA
- CERT and American Red Cross are running the shelters.
- Kernville Elementary will now be the primary shelter location; [St. Jude Catholic Church is the secondary shelter.](#)
- Kern County is providing transportation to the shelters through Kern Regional Transit, and has AFN transportation capabilities. The number to the general public is 1-800-277-7866.
- American Red Cross has 7 shelter trailers in the area and can bring more.
- [County Mental Health deployed MET teams to the evacuation area and responded to requests from shelter managers to provide services to distressed evacuees.](#)
- [2 medical personnel are assigned to each shelter 24 hours a day](#)
- [AT&T volunteers are delivering 2 charging stations and bottled water to shelters.](#)

### **Animal Shelters**

- Kern County Animal Services is assisting with animal sheltering operations. Domestic animals are being housed next to the shelter at Kernville Elementary.
- [River Kern Kennel is sheltering large animals.](#)

### **OA Mission Support Requests/Cal OES Mission Tasking**

- 2016-IREOC-24579: FAST coordinator has been closed
- 2016-FIRE-24581: Fixed wing C-12 air transport for personnel to fire location.
- 2016-SOC-24608: Additional non-profit and state resources being provided by EMSA, CDSS, DGS, CDPH, and ARC.
- 2016-SOC-24615: 2 AFN showers for Kernville Elementary School Shelter (Ongoing)
- 2016-SOC-24616: 2 AFN showers for St. Jude Catholic Church Shelter (Ongoing)
- 2016-SOC-24626: 1 AFN port-o-potty for Kernville Elementary School Shelter (Ongoing)
- 2016-SOC-24630: 1 AFN port-o-potty for St. Jude Catholic Church Shelter (Ongoing)
- Mission Number Pending: 10 walkers, 2 manual wheelchairs, 2 bariatric wheelchairs requested (Ongoing)

### **Utilities**

- Power lines are reported down across Highway 178, just east of Mountain Mesa. CUEA is reporting that approximately 3,000 people are without power. Service restoration cannot be estimated due to the current fire conditions and lack of access, but crews are starting to gain access to some affected areas. Actions are underway to have supplies and personnel on standby. Cell services restored (Verizon and AT&T) for firefighting activities.
- Additional repair crews and materials have been moved to make repairs.
- Electrical services will be restored with priority given to key facilities such as: police, fire and hospitals pending clearance from the fire authority to do so.
- There are communities that lack power and are on well water, therefore do not have running water. Generators have been requested. Bottle water was delivered to many of these communities.
- 6/25/16 AT&T has 3 Cell on Light Trucks (COLT) on site, a Cell on Wheels (COW) is being deployed and should be in full service by 6/25/16, and IC has full cell coverage as of 6/25/16 at 1015 hours.

### **Recovery**

- Assuming conditions permit, KCFD and the Incident Team will deploy personnel to conduct initial damage assessment (windshield survey) on 6/26/16 to obtain a more accurate estimate of the number of structures destroyed by the fire. More detailed damage assessment will be conducted on Sunday 06/26 by the Public

Works Dept., working with information from the initial estimate and parcel maps from the County Assessor's Office.

**Initial Damage Estimates and Preliminary Damage Information**

Pending: Will be conducting windshield surveys

This report will be updated as information becomes available.

POINT OF CONTACT: California State Warning Center  
916-845-8911

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